

WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

WDFW Fence Installation L.T. Murray Wildlife Area; Whiskey Dick and Skookumchuck sections

2. Name of applicant:

Washington State Fish and Wildlife

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Washington State Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA. 98501

Contact: Cindy Knudsen
360 902 8422

Cindy.knudsen@dfw.wa.gov

4. Date checklist prepared:

2 11 2014

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington State Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

March - June, 2014

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.
No.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

An archaeological study was performed that indicated no historical properties were encountered.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

No.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

An HPA will be required for this project.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

This project will install four strand barbed wire and some high tension fencing along the property boundary section lines in the WDFW L.T Murray Wildlife Area, in the Whiskey Dick and Quilomene-units. There are two separate areas that will be fenced. These sections are identified as; **Section 1: Skookumchuck Creek, and Section 2, North Fork Whiskey Dick Creek.**

Section 1: Skookumchuck Creek

The entire fence line is from: start point: 47.06275,-120.201611 to end point: 47.051964 -120.175611.

Fence Starting point:

T18N, R21E, S09 (47.06275,-120.201611) and proceeding east to the section line between sections 9,10,16,15 (47.663722,-120.196306). After reaching the section line, the fence will continue south along the section line (south between sections 9 and 10 and south between 16 and 15), starting at the point between sections 9,10,16,15.-This portion of the fence project will cross Skookumchuck Creek. In this area three rock cribs will be installed. Where the fence crosses the Skookumchuck Creek it is designed with breakaway features that will allow for water passage under high flow conditions.

The fence section then continues south and ends at the point (47.051806,-120.496472). Then the fence will be connected to an existing pasture fence located approximately 900 feet west in section 16. The fence will then return to the section line, and proceed east to connect with existing barbed wire, continuing just past the section line 15 and proceeding slightly into section 14 where the fence will connect with existing fencing at (47.051694,-120.175611).

Section 2: North Fork Whiskey Dick Creek

Starting in T18 N, R 21 E at the section corner (47.04444,-120.175472). This is located at the center markers for section 15, 14, 22 and 23. The fence will connect with existing barb wire fencing, and continue south approximately one mile and ending at the center marker between the section markers at 47.029889,-120.175694, and between sections 22,23,27,26.

This section of fencing will cross a jeep trail, and will have 350 lf of lay down fencing, about midway through this portion of the project. High tensile wire may be used in this part of the fencing project. This section of fencing will also cross the North Fork of Whiskey Dick Creek. Where the fence crosses the North Fork of Whiskey Dick Creek, it is designed with breakaway features that will allow for water passage under high flow conditions.

Depending on site conditions, fencing components will include steel posts and pressure treated wood fence posts that are over 5 feet high and 5 to 6 inch diameter. Associated fencing materials include barbed wire (2 strand 12.5 inch gauge wire, 4 point 14 gauge barbs), smooth wire (2 strand 12.5 gage), high tension wire. Barb wire fencing will be constructed on site. All other associated fencing materials; ties, rock jacks, cribs, galvanized and or pressure treated bracing materials, staples, wire clamps, and gates will meet ASTM (153 or 121) industry standards.

The new fence line will be brushed to a minimum width of 2 feet on each side to facilitate erection and maintenance. Brush will be cut to ground surface and removed from site. Any removed timber or brush debris will be stacked on WDFW side of the fence line. Old fencing

within 2 feet of the staked location of the new fence will be removed and disposed of in an approved facility.

Line post intervals will not exceed 14 feet, center to center of posts. Wood posts are not driven in place. They will be set to a depth of 30" inches and metal posts set at a minimum depth of 3 inches of soil over flange, backfilled and tamped down. If soil conditions do not provide for adequate installation, a rock jack or alternate method of post installation will be used. Maximum sequence run of steel posts will not exceed 5 steel posts per 1 wood post. Fencing will be securely braced and tightened. Stretch structures will be no more than a maximum of 1,320 feet apart. Changes in alignment of 30 degrees or more shall be considered as corners and corner posts will be installed.

Rock Cribs approximately 4 feet wide x 4 feet tall (4 x 4 inch treated wood) may also be installed instead of other fencing structures. Gully crossings will include 4 inch pressure treated wood posts or lumber with vertical spacing 12 inch on center. They will hang from standard wire fence and a brace wire. Please see permit drawings for additional details.

Equipment used will be pickup trucks, where accessible, and impact driving equipment. At no time will any equipment enter the water. All fencing will be performed in accordance with all local, state and federal codes laws and permit guidelines.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

Skookumchuck Creek T18 N, R 21 E sections 9,10,16,15

From I 90 take Exit 115 toward Kittitas. Turn left onto Main Street. Turn left onto S. Main St/Railroad Ave. Take the first right onto S. Main Street. Turn right onto E. 4th Avenue/E Patrick Ave. E. 4th Avenue /Patrick Ave becomes Clerf Rd. Turn left onto Caribou Rd. Turn right onto Vantage Highway. Turn left onto Vantage Highway. Turn right to stay on Parke Creek Rd (portions unpaved). Turn right to stay on Parke Creek Road, (portions unpaved) and after 0.4 miles turn right. Turn sharp right after 0.4 miles and then after another 0.4 miles take the first left. Continue another 0.4 miles and turn right ((portions unpaved). Take a slight right (portions unpaved, and continue 0.6 miles. Stay straight to go onto Army road (portions unpaved). Continue to destination for the Skookumchuck Creek starting location at **47.06275,-120.201611**.

North Fork Whiskey Dick Creek T18 N, R 21 E sections 15, 14, 22 and 23.

From I 90 take Exit 115 toward Kittitas. Turn left onto Main Street. Turn left onto S. Main St/Railroad Ave. Take the first right onto S. Main Street. Turn right onto E. 4th Avenue/E Patrick Ave. E. 4th Avenue /Patrick Ave becomes Clerf Rd. Turn left onto Caribou Rd. Turn right onto Vantage Highway and go 9.3 miles to the Wild Horse Wind Facility. (Entry to the Wild Horse Wind Facility requires gate combination and brief training to gain access). The fencing project is located at **47.04444,-120.175472**.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other . .

This area is generally dry, low elevation shrub-steppe habitat, with springs scattered throughout the drainage. Whiskey Dick Creek and some of the other tributaries provide habitat for resident trout. Federally listed Steelhead are known to occur in Skookumchuck Creek. Vegetation is mostly shrub steppe, mostly sagebrush and bitterbrush mixed with bunchgrasses. Streams and springs provide narrow bands of riparian habitat.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

North Fork Whiskey Dick: 15% slope

Skookumchuck: 30 to 70% slope

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

The North fork Whiskey Dick site has predominately Argabak-Vantage complex soils

The Skookumchuck site has predominant Camaspatch-Whiskeydick complex soils, and Argabak-Camaspatch complex,

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

No.

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

No fill will be used. Precast cement may be used to anchor fence corners.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

No erosion is anticipated as a result of this project.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

None.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

Motorized passenger vehicle access will be limited to existing roads. Off road vehicles may be used directly adjacent to the fence line where topography permits.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Typical emissions will be from power equipment, pick trucks and or other heavy machinery.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

No.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

No measures are proposed to control emissions to the air.

3. Water

a. Surface:

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Site 1 Skookumchuck project site crosses Skookumchuck Creek. Skookumchuck Creek flows into the Columbia River.

Site 2: North Fork of Whiskey Dick Creek project site crosses North Fork Whiskey Dick Creek. The North Fork of Whiskey Dick Creek flows into the Columbia River.

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

The two fencing projects will cross over two different creeks.

Site 1: Skookumchuck Creek project crosses **Skookumchuck Creek**

Site 2: North Fork of Whiskey Creek project crosses North Fork of Whiskey Creek

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

No fill or dredge materials will be removed from surface water or wetlands.

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

This project will not require surface water withdrawals.

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

The proposal does not lie within a 100 year floodplain.

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No waste materials will be discharged to surface waters.

b. Ground:

- 1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No ground water will be withdrawn or discharged to ground water.

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

No ground water will be withdrawn or discharged to ground water.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Water will follow typical drainage patterns; either eventually entering ground water, or the waters of Skookumchuck Creek, or the North Fork of Whiskey Dick Creek.

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

No. Refueling of construction equipment will be conducted off site, away from the project locations.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

Water drainage will follow typical patterns. No additional measures are proposed.

4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

_____ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

_____ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

 x shrubs

 x grass

_____ pasture

_____ crop or grain

_____ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other

_____ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

 x other types of vegetation: (sage land shrub steppe)

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Some brushing could be done to clear fence lines.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

None.

5. Animals

a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

For the L.T Murray Wildlife Area:

birds: **hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds**, other: falcons, ruffed grouse, wild turkey

mammals: **deer, bear, elk, beaver**, other: Bighorn sheep, white tailed jackrabbit., Immaculate green hairstreak butterfly

fish: **salmon, trout**, herring, shellfish, other:

The fencing sections are within the Quilomene Elk Winter Range.

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Upper Columbia River steelhead – Federal threatened, State PHS species

Greater sage grouse – Federal Candidate, State Threatened.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Elk migrate through the area. Fish species are present in the wildlife area, including ~~bass~~, salmon, trout and steelhead.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

Installation of the fencing will protect key habitat and provide for better resource management and stewardship of the areas fish and wildlife resources by preventing open range livestock grazing in critical habitats.

6. Energy and natural resources

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs?

Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

No sources of energy will be required by the completed project.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

No.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

None.

7. Environmental health

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

No.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None.

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

None.

b. Noise

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

None.

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

None.

8. Land and shoreline use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

Adjacent properties are rural, with some rural residences and agricultural areas.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

No.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

None.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

No.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Open Range.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

N/A

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

N/A

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

Riparian Areas, cliffs, talus and shrub-steppe vegetation are found in the project area and are considered Priority Habitat areas. Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) with known occurrences in the L.T. Murray Wildlife Area include: little brown myositis, chukar, waterfowl concentration areas, mule deer winter range concentration areas, elk winter range concentration areas, and bighorn sheep regular concentration areas and core habitat areas.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

None.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

None.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

None.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

This proposal is consistent with the L. T Murray Wildlife Area Management Plan and WDFW's mandates.

9. **Housing**

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

No housing units will be eliminated.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

None.

10. **Aesthetics**

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

The wooden fence posts are 5 feet tall.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

None.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

None.

11. **Light and glare**

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

N/A.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

N/A.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

N/A.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

N/A.

12. **Recreation**

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

In the L.T. Murray Wildlife Area, hunting, fishing, camping and wildlife watching are all popular.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.
No.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

13. Historic and cultural preservation

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

The Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park is adjacent to the south east edge of the Whiskey Dick Winter Range.

An Archeological Cultural Resources Review was performed specifically for the Whiskey Dick Wildlife Fence Project. The results indicated that no archaeological or historical properties or artifacts

~~indicated.~~

b Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

None are known along or near the fencing project.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:
None.

14. Transportation

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

The Old Vantage Highway serves this site.

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

The nearest public transit site is unknown.

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?
N/A.

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).
None.

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.
No.

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.
No vehicle trips will be generated by the completed project.

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:
None.

15. Public services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

None.

16. Utilities

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

None.

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

No utilities are proposed for the project.

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: 

Date Submitted: 